

#11  
An Essay

Printed March 9<sup>th</sup>  
1826

On

Scute Hypocrisy

by

Robert R. Durant

of

South Carolina

1825

1840

1841

1842

1843

1844

1  
Acute Hepatitis

The Liver, like the lungs, or any other internal organ is liable to take on active, or acute inflammation. The inflammation of this as of other organs is ushered in with the fever, preceded by chilliness, paleness of countenance, shrinking of the external parts, and a small, quick, and chorded pulse.

In proportion to the intensity of the chilly or cold stage, will be the subsequent reaction.

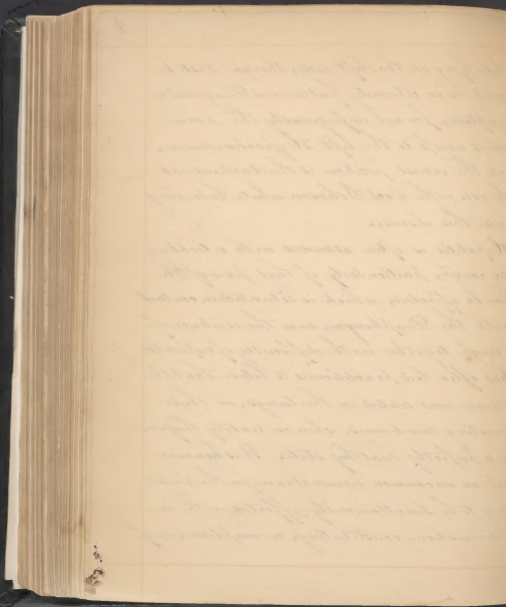
There soon comes on great heat, with pain in the right Hypochondriac region, that pain often extends up as high as the Clavicle, and shoulder, but this is not a necessary attendant on Hepatitis, for it may be present without any affection of the liver, or this organ may be in a diseased state independent of the presence of this symptom.

The patient generally experiences great uneasiness

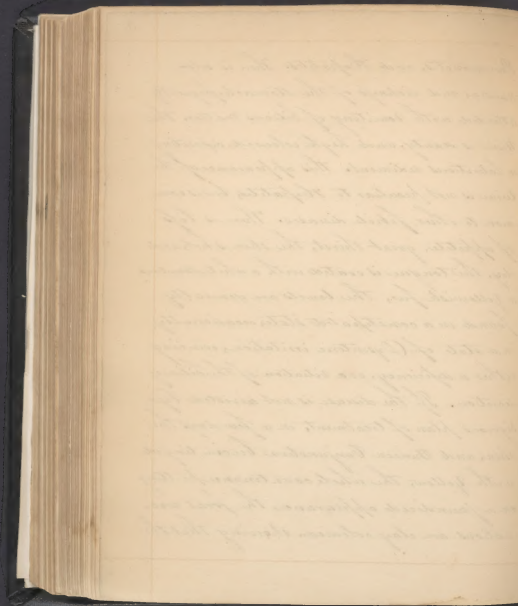


while lying on the left side, though it is to be considered an extremely fallacious Diagnostic symptom, for not unfrequently the pain extends across to the left Hypochondrium, and the easiest position is the back, as was the case with Doct Johnson while labouring under this disease.

Hepatitis is often attended with a tickling dry cough, particularly if that part of the liver be affected, which is situated in contact with the Diaphragm, and the existence of a cough together with difficulty of respiration has often led practitioners to believe that the disease was seated in the lungs, or their investing membranes, when in reality they were in a perfectly healthy state. It is however not an uncommon circumstance for the right lung to be simultaneously affected with inflammation, constituting a complication of



Pneumonitis, and Hepatitis. There is also nausea, and sickness of the stomach, frequently attended with vomiting of bilious matter. The urine is scanty, and high coloured, depositing a catenitious sediment. This appearance of the urine is not peculiar to Hepatitis, but is common to other febrile diseases. There is loss of appetite, great thirst, the skin is hot, and dry, the tongue is coated with a white, sometimes a yellowish fur, the bowels are generally found in a constipated state, occasionally in a state of Dysenteric irritation, evincing either a deficiency, or a vitiation of the biliary secretion. If the disease is not arrested by a vigorous plan of treatment, in a few days the skin, and Tunica Conjunctiva become tinged with yellow, the whole countenance putting on a jaundiced appearance, the fecal evacuations are clay coloured, shewing that the

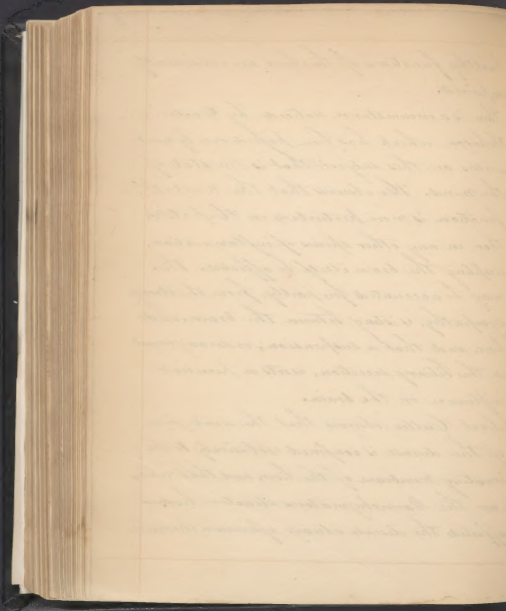




4  
healthy functions of the liver are considerably impaired.

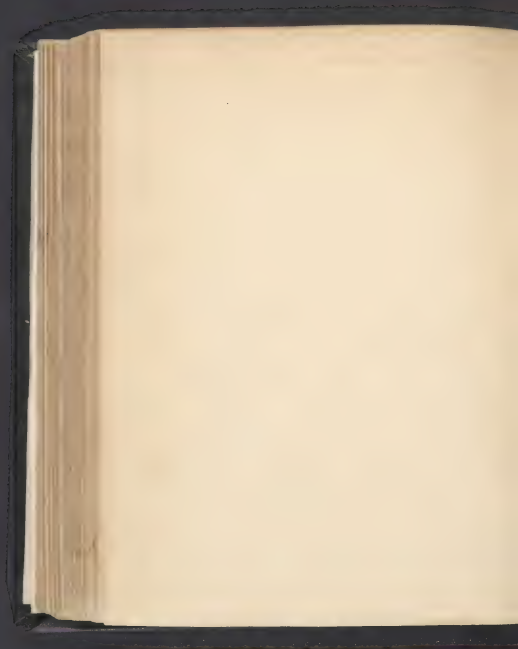
There is a circumstance noticed by Doctor Johnson, which has been passed over by most writers on this subject, that is the state of the mind. He observes that the mental function is more perturbed in Hepatitis, than in any other species of inflammation, excepting the brain itself be affected. This may be accounted for partly, from the strong sympathy existing between the brain, and liver, and that a suspension, or derangement in the biliary secretion, exerts a peculiar influence on the brain.

Doct Cullen observes that the acute form of this disease is confined exclusively to the investing membrane of the liver, and that when the Parenchymatous structure becomes affected the disease always assumes a chronic



character, increased not only in amount, but even the redness with which inflammation in this organ runs into the suppurative stage and forms a center in the substance of the liver, in reality, in the that the structure of this important focus was hard to observe or note. Inflammation in acute Chronic Granular structure in the human body. Innumerable instances are on record. Indeed, I have seen in almost daily instances of Granular Glands or other in the human. Inactive lesions or active inflammation. A fairer illustration of this fact cannot be adduced than the Suppurative Widespread. The Inguinal Glands readily take on active inflammation and run into Suppuration, unless arrested by the most vigorous Antiphlogistic plan of treatment.

6 Diagnostic Symptoms. In the incipient



made of this disease, the sister part of  
Hepatitis from inflammation, and the  
contiguous viscera is of little consequence  
to the Physician, since the speed and course  
of vascular excitement by cutaneous derivation,  
is the same remedy to be relied on in Hepatitis  
or in inflammation of any other part of  
the system. But, after this is effected, it  
then becomes of the almost importance to  
the successful practitioner to discriminate  
between inflammation of the Liver, and  
inflammation of any of the contiguous  
viscera. For, unless a proper distinction be  
drawn, his practice must be uncertain,  
and empirical.

The disease now under consideration may in  
general be distinguished from Pneumonia,  
by gradual inspiration not or even like the pain  
in the liver, as it does when any of the "Favours"



Viscera are affected; while the pain is felt much more sensibly, by pressure under the margin of the floating ribs. The cough, and difficulty of respiration, are usual with Pneumonic inflammation, while they always succeed the hepatic inflammation, and are not accompanied with expectoration. From inflammation of the stomach, it may generally be distinguished, by the absence of that Gastric irritability and sensibility which render Gastritis so dangerous, and distressing a complaint. In Hepatitis the patient is mostly unable to retain any thing taken into the stomach, for a time at least but the reverse of this is the case in Gastritis. It may also be known by the febrile symptoms not assuming that typhoid type which is so characteristic of inflammation of the stomach.

From spasm of the Gall duct (which is caused





by impacted calculi, it may be discriminated by the vehemence of the febrile symptoms, and many other circumstances, but as this is considered as one of the causes of Hepatitis, and requires no difference of treatment, there is less necessity for establishing the distinction between them.

The appearance of the feces, and worms, indicate derangement of the liver, with more constancy, and certainly, than of any other of the Abdominal viscera. Although the calcareous sediment deposited by the worms is not an infrequent occurrence in inflammation of some other internal organ, yet its peculiar appearance will materially contribute in assisting to form a correct Diagnosis of the true nature of the disease.

Diseased appearances of the Liver. Dissections reveal to us the liver, and its investiment membrane in various states, and different degrees



of disengagement, when inflammation occurs in the membrane of the liver, it presents exactly the same appearances as is met with in the Peritonium, of which it forms a part in a similar condition. It is generally, found after death (if there was previous inflammation) much thicker than in the healthy state. It is crowded with minute vessels carrying red blood. There is also, found on its surface a layer of coagulable Lymph, which contributes a good deal to its thickness, and whenever the secretion of this Lymph is in sufficient quantity, it forms connections more, or less completely between the liver, and contiguous parts.

It is more common to find upon Dissections these adhesions (which are the result of previous inflammation) than to find the membrane itself in an inflamed state.



The parenchymatous structure is sometimes, though rarely, found in a state of inflammation, notwithstanding there was no symptom developed during life that would indicate such a condition of the liver, excepting the jaundiced appearance of the skin. This appearance is caused most probably, by the pressure that is made on the Portal Veins by the swelling of the surrounding parts.

The adhesions found between the liver, and adjacent parts, are nothing more than the coagulable lymph, which is secreted by the Membrane during its inflammatory stage, and by its organization is converted into a trans-harent Membrane, and it is this Membrane, that forms the medium of connection between the liver, and the parts that lie contiguous. This junction may either be general over an extended surface of the liver,



as it was entirely a new set of adhesions.

There were still some adhesions, but considerably  
 in their growth, sometimes they were so great  
 that I was in consequence in danger. The  
 most common places were these adhesions  
 as to the ear, it is on the anterior part, be-  
 cause it is connected to the posterior by  
 the membrane, & made at this service, and  
 only not very great, as the adhesion  
 between the two, and the ear, the ear,  
 and the rest of the head, and the ear, and  
 occasional, & in some adhesions to the  
 rest of the ear.

The principal use of these adhesions, is to  
 prevent the escape of air into the external  
 cavity of the eardrum, as it is also, & is  
 found in the eardrum, & the eardrum, &  
 the eardrum, the eardrum, & the eardrum.





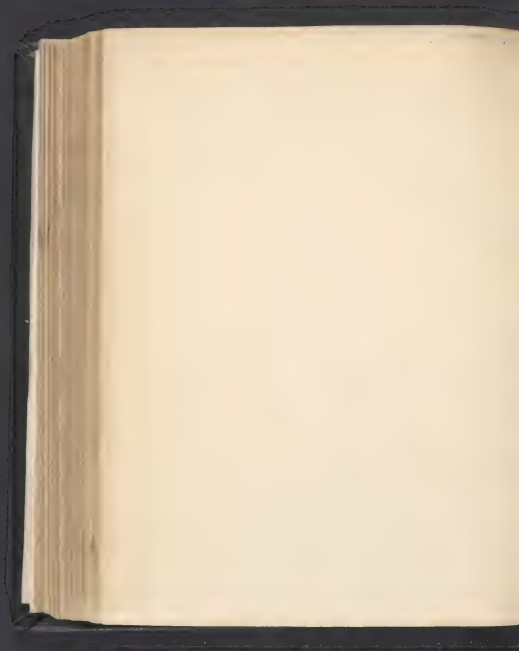
expectations from the liver, that is when  
 the liver is situated on the convex surface of  
 the liver. If the abscess seems external, it may  
 be detected by the fist if the patient is  
 incised, and the abscess is thin, it may  
 be removed by a lancet, or any other suitable  
 instrument. Thus the patient's life is less  
 endangered, and ultimately a cure may be  
 effected, provided the constitution has not  
 suffered too much by previous diseases.

Typothem also show the liver covered with  
 tubercles of various sizes, and consistence, some  
 are firm, small, of a whitish or yellowish colour,  
 of a rounded figure, and are to be found in  
 clusters occupying the inner substance of  
 the liver, others are larger, and of a reddish  
 or dark brown colour, and are usually distant  
 from each other. An intimately firm or  
 in some degree, just during the process



This evidence can be detected, but in some cases  
 instances they may be discovered by the patient  
 when the patient is then, and immediately, even  
 if his disease were ascertained the present  
 mode of treatment can only be palliative. This  
 entire removal is not to be considered a liberation  
 and beyond the powers of the surgeon.  
 There is now to record the case, in which  
 state of our science, we were at that time,  
 towards, and a light is maintained that a  
 inquiry was made when the results  
 fully that decision to use surgery, in all  
 these diseases which were at that time considered  
 as curable, or at least so as yet decided the  
 results of surgical war.

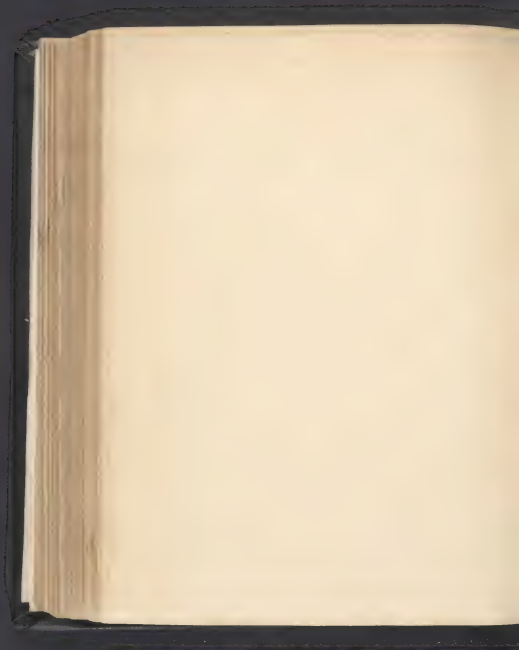
Thudichum was, however, much as the time  
 on what has been said. Thudichum is generally  
 applicable to this medical department. The  
 he is also found not only in the medical



inflamed, or serious state this nervous is the  
state of Chronic Rheumatism.

Quicker. The cause may be divided into  
exciting and exciting causes. The ex-  
citing and exciting causes are the same as  
those which lead to Rheumatism as a whole  
which partial application of cold to the body  
can be said to excite, standing on cold  
ground, causing a sudden shock of excitement.  
But these are more causes than are least con-  
sistent with Rheumatism than any other species  
of inflammation. If the predisposing may  
be mentioned, sometimes irritability dis-  
position, which affords a corroborative proof of the  
theory of sympathy that exists between the brain  
and liver.

The exciting causes are either external or internal.  
It is universally acknowledged that a high  
range of temperature excites considerable



influence on the Hepatic system, through  
 the medium of the skin, and we need not  
 wait a long time to imagine how this heat  
 when we take into consideration the indirect  
 warming powers of heat. It is well known  
 that its first effect is to augment the cutaneous  
 and Salivary secretions, but when long continuance  
 of heat, the vessels by which this secretion  
 is carried on, become debilitated, as soon as  
 we are struck by cold on the sudden, the  
 cold. This vessel at first would be exposed  
 to the same violent contraction of the same  
 vessels, the energy of the Hepatic system  
 diminished, and consequently takes place,  
 consequently inflammation is the result.  
 This disease is caused by wind or cold,  
 by intense summer heats, by long continued  
 surmitten, and remittent fevers, by high  
 winds, and the exasperation of malarious









The most important thing to remember is that the most effective way to prevent the disease is to avoid contact with the infected person. The disease is not contagious, and the only way to prevent it is to avoid contact with the infected person. The disease is not contagious, and the only way to prevent it is to avoid contact with the infected person.







[illegible]





medicine. To obtain its beneficial effects, the  
 card, it seems to be given in one of two ways  
 one three or four times a day, combined with one  
 of the grain, & the other in the form of  
 a solution is to be continued until a gentle  
 Hyalism is induced. The one, the other is  
 to remove the Cause, & the other is to  
 the cause, & the other is to be continued  
 as it is desired that a gentle solution  
 should be continued in the case of a patient  
 who is afflicted with the disease of the lungs  
 the other has been used in the case of  
 the Cause, & next a visit to the man, & the  
 other, the medicinal part is. When the  
 cause is taken is to be continued until  
 the Cause, or a sponge, & the other  
 is to be continued until the Cause, & the other  
 is to be continued until the Cause, & the other



when the pills should again be exhibited, and continued until exactly the same effects are produced, and in this manner the system is to be kept gently under the influence of its power a longer, or a shorter period according to the violence of the symptoms. If there is no structural derangement, a shorter time will suffice, but, if the disease has been allowed to run on, and we are apprehensive that some disorganization has taken place, this mode of treatment is to be continued for six, or eight weeks or longer if necessary.

If, by the means suggested above, there is an abatement of the symptoms, and the secretory action of the skin, and liver is restored, the Prognosis is favourable, but, on the contrary, if there is little abatement of the violence of the symptoms, and the skin remains hot, dry, and constricted, we may augur an



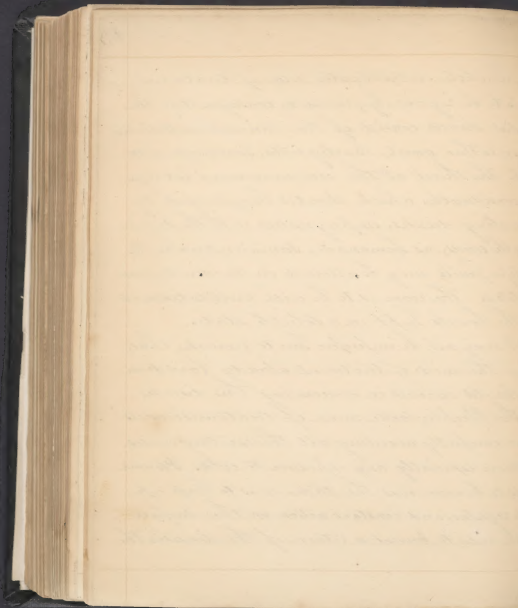
unfavourable termination. Now it is, that the warm Bath, if judiciously applied, from its well known efficacy in equalizing the circulation, and determining to the surface, promises to be useful. There are other remedies of minor importance, some of which have been recommended very highly in the cure of the psoas, particularly the Nitric Muriac Bath, which in my opinion is entitled to more confidence, than it has hitherto received from the practitioners in this country. The Nitric Acid largely diluted, I have seen given with decided beneficial effect.

As regards Tonics, I have but few words to say. After the Phlogistic Diathesis has been overcome, and the patient is much exhausted, the various Vegetable Bitters, and Chalybeate preparations may be used with advantage. But as in every species of inflammation.



the whole Antiphlogistic plan of treatment is to be rigorously pursued, consequently the diet should consist of the farinaceous articles, or rather gruel, Barley water, Toast and water &c. The thirst at the commencement is very considerable, which should be assuaged by cooling drinks, impregnated with the vegetable Acids, as Lemonade, Tamarind water &c. ripe fruits may be allowed in moderate quantities. The room is to be well ventilated and the bowels kept in a soluble state.

It may not be improper here to remark, that, if the mode of treatment already laid down should succeed in overcoming the disease the Prophylactic mode of treatment consists in carefully avoiding all the exciting causes, more especially any exposure to cold. Flannels is to be worn next the skin, so as to keep up a regular, and constant action on the surface in order to prevent a return of the disease. The





diet should consist of such articles as are easy of Digestion, and not liable to fermentation, every thing of an acrid, or irritating nature is to be prohibited, particularly all fermented, or spiritous liquors. Wine taken in moderate quantities, largely diluted with water, may not be productive of much mischief, but water alone constitutes the best beverage, for a convalescent from an attack of acute Hepatitis.

